



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENTERTAINMENT AND TOURISM INDUSTRIES

**COMMITTEE CHAIR** – Demos Vardiabasis, CED Commissioner and Professor of Economics at Pepperdine University's Graziadio School of Business and Management

### MEMBERS

#### **Maren Christensen, Executive VP and General Counsel, Universal Studios**

Ms. Christensen is responsible for the worldwide legal operations of the theatrical motion picture, home entertainment, consumer products and theme park businesses. In addition, she is engaged in oversight of the international intellectual property policy for all NBC Universal businesses, counseling on anti-piracy legislation and regulation worldwide.

Ms. Christensen obtained her undergraduate degree from UCLA and her law degree from the University of Southern California Law Center. Before joining Universal, she was a litigation partner at the law firm of Rosenfeld, Meyer and Susman in Beverly Hills specializing in intellectual property litigation. She joined Universal Studios in 1997 as its senior intellectual property counsel and became its General Counsel in January, 2005.

Ms. Christensen has served as president of the Los Angeles Copyright Society and is a member of the Copyright Society of the U.S.A. She speaks frequently on intellectual property protection and other legal issues raised by the digital production and distribution of motion picture and television content. She was a member of Mayor Villaraigosa's Los Angeles trade mission to Asia in October, 2006.

#### **John Davis – Chairman, Davis Entertainment**

John Davis, Chairman of Los Angeles-based Davis Entertainment, who has been recognized by The Hollywood Reporter as Hollywood's most prolific producer (August, 2005), has produced more than 80 films and movies for television that have earned more than \$4 billion worldwide. As a film producer, his credits include everything from epics (Kevin Costner's *Waterworld* [1995]) and romantic comedies (*Grumpy Old Men* [1993] and its sequel) to legal thrillers (*The Firm* [1993]) and small independent films (*Cadillac Ranch* [1996]). More recent titles include *Garfield*, *Garfield 2*, *Daddy Day Care* and *Norbit*.

### **Chris Essel – Member, California Film Commission**

Ms. Essel formerly served as Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, for Paramount Pictures. In that capacity she was responsible for shaping Paramount's civic and political presence at the state and local levels, developing legislative strategy, and advocating on matters that could impact the company and the industry. During her tenure at the studio, she also played a lead role in the near total renovation and significant expansion of the 65-acre facility in Hollywood, where studio buildings total over two million square feet. She also worked with her team to build an extraordinary employee-based volunteer program that devotes countless hours in the community working with local schools and non-profit organizations.

Ms. Essel has served on the California Film Commission and was the Board Chair for nine years, having been recruited to take that position by Governors Wilson, Davis and Schwarzenegger. She is the Vice-Chair of the California Workforce Investment Board having been appointed to that role by Governor Davis in 2000. In addition, she is in her second year as Chair of Central City Association, the premiere business advocacy organization in the Los Angeles representing over 450 members and 350,000 jobs in the region.

Going back in time, Ms. Essel became very engaged in the redevelopment of Hollywood and was ultimately asked by Councilman Mike Woo to chair the Hollywood Community Advisory Council. Mayors Bradley and Riordan then appointed her to the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency Board, which she chaired for several of years. She also served on the board and as President of Alternative Living for the Aging and received its prestigious Sheldon Andelson Award in 1997. Among her other honors, she has received the Woman of the Year Award from the City of Hope, Diamond Circle, the Woman of Distinction Award from the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and the Community Leader Award from NWPC.

### **Dan Gordon – Co-Founder, Gordon Biersch Brewing Company**

Mr. Gordon is director of brewing operations for Gordon Biersch, where he supervises the state-of-the-art brewing and bottling facility in San Jose, CA. Mr. Gordon is the first American in more than 40 years to graduate from the prestigious five-year brewing engineering program at the world-renowned Technical University of Munich in Weihenstephan, Germany. Before earning his brewing engineer's degree there in 1987, he interned at Spaten Brewery in Munich and served as a technical translator at Lowenbrau Consulting. After completing the world's most advanced brewing program, Mr. Gordon returned to California and joined forces with restaurateur Dean Biersch to take advantage of a new state law allowing brewery restaurants. In 1988, the partners opened their first Gordon Biersch brewery restaurant in Palo Alto, Calif. Mr. Gordon frequently lectures at the Stanford University School of Business, the Anderson School of Management at UCLA and the University of San Francisco.

### **Frances Fisher – Member, National Board, Screen Actors Guild**

Born in England, Frances Fisher's childhood in numerous countries and in various locations around the U.S. undoubtedly provided fodder for her thespian career. After graduating from high school, Frances cut her teeth acting in Orange Community Theater and she also apprenticed at the Barter Theatre in Virginia before moving to New York City where her career quickly blossomed.

Fisher starred in over 30 theatrical productions both regionally and off-Broadway. During this time she studied with Stella Adler and is one of the last three students selected by Lee Strasberg to become a member of the renowned Actors' Studio. Fisher earned a Drama-Logue

award for Best Ensemble Cast in the world premiere of Caryl Churchill's *Three More Sleepless Nights*.

Fisher has also proven to be a versatile performer in both television and film. She is known for her television roles as Lucille Ball in *Lucy & Desi: Before the Laughter*, as well as her recurring roles in *Becker* and *Titus*. She began to build her film career with roles in *Tough Guys Don't Dance*, *Babyfever*, and *Patty Hearson*, and has since added to her resume by landing roles in acclaimed movies such as *Unforgiven* and *True Crime*. She has worked alongside iconic actors such as Clint Eastwood, Craig Ferguson, Kate Winslet, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Rob Lowe, and Julianne Moore in critically acclaimed works ranging from the comedic *The Big Tease* to the dramatic *House of Sand and Fog* and *Titanic*, in which she garnered a Screen Actors Guild nomination as part of Best Ensemble Cast. Fisher has proven to be a huge success and continues to be a mainstay in American Cinema, as evident in her roles in recent films such as *The Kingdom* with Jamie Foxx and *In the Valley of Elah* with Tommy Lee Jones.

### **Ron Ford, President and CEO, St. Clair Entertainment**

Ford serves as CEO of St. Clair Entertainment, America's leading independent provider video and audio entertainment, based in Los Angeles. He has produced hundreds of albums selling millions of copies and is a member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. He has also sold millions of movie DVDs and is a member of the National Association of Recording Merchandisers. Prior, Ford served as CEO and President of Media Arts Group, Inc. (NYSE: MDA). He serves as a finance and strategy professor and Associate Dean for Executive Education at the Graziadio School of Business at Pepperdine University.

### **Matthew J. Hart, Past President, Hilton Hotels Group**

Until the buyout of Hilton Hotels Corporation by the Blackstone Group in October 2007, Mr. Hart was President and Chief Operating Officer of Hilton Hotels Corporation. He had responsibility for all operational aspects of the Company, including owned and managed hotel operations, brand development and timeshare operations. Mr. Hart had been Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since joining Hilton in May of 1996. Prior to joining Hilton, Mr. Hart was Senior Vice President and Treasurer for the Walt Disney Company, where he was responsible for the company's corporate and project financing activities. Before joining Disney, Mr. Hart served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Host Marriott Corporation. He held various financial positions at Marriott Corporation (prior to the formation of Host Marriott), which he joined in 1981 as Manager, Project Finance.

### **Brad Krevoy – Independent Producer**

Busy producer Brad Krevoy and longtime business partner Steve Stabler co-founded the Motion Picture Corporation of America (MPCA), one of the largest suppliers of inexpensive but high-quality films in the industry. Together, they have helped develop, fund, produce, and distribute over 100 features, including the smash hits *Dumb and Dumber* (1994), which they produced for New Line Pictures, and *Kingpin* (1996). Krevoy holds degrees from Stanford University and Hastings College of Law. He entered show business as an entertainment attorney at a top firm in Los Angeles. Krevoy also served as a Legislative Fellow in the California State Legislature. He later co-established Concorde Pictures with Roger Corman and then served as the company's president. In addition to his professional duties, Krevoy serves on the executive branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and also holds a post on the Board of Directors for the California state Summer School of the Arts.

### **Paul Lam – President and CEO, Peregrine Travel**

Paul Lam is Chairman and CEO of Asia Capital Group Inc, a California-based company with interest in biotechnology and traditional medicine. Asia Capital Group Inc is involved in the

development and distribution of human and animal herbal products based on traditional Chinese medicine. Mr. Lam is also Chairman and CEO of Peregrine Travel Group, one of the largest Chinese-based travel agencies.

### **Lisa Rawlins - Senior Vice President, Studio & Production Affairs Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.**

Ms. Rawlins began her career at Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc in 1990. She is responsible for corporate government affairs and community relations with a particular emphasis on the feature film and television production divisions of her company. Her department works with projects from first draft scripts through post-production, anticipating and resolving problems that may arise at the federal, state and local level, as well as within the private sector. Prior to joining Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc, Ms. Rawlins served as director of the California Film Commission, which she created in 1985. During her six-year tenure she and a staff of 11 assisted more than 2400 film projects annually.

### **Bob Roberts - Executive Director, California Ski Industry Association**

Since 1975 Bob Roberts has served as the executive director of the California Ski Industry Association. The CSIA represents 38 of California's alpine and cross country resorts. It oversees the industry's legislative, technical training, risk management, and marketing programs. Its *California Snow* programs have been highly successful in developing cooperative campaigns to attract foreign skiers and snowboarders to California.

Bob was actively involved in the creation of the California Travel and Tourism Commission. He was elected vice chair of the commission and served for six years as chair of its marketing committee that directs the state's tourism marketing programs. The commission's accomplishments include production of the *Wild California* IMAX and the "*Find Yourself Here*" television advertising campaign featuring Jack Nicholson and Clint Eastwood. The "*Winter in California*" marketing initiative starring Governor Schwarzenegger is the most recent effort. Bob also served as a director of the Travel Industry of America.

### **Scott Rosenfelt – Independent Producer**

Scott Rosenfelt is one of Hollywood's most successful independent producers. On the strength of such films as *Smoke Signals*, *Home Alone*, *Mystic Pizza*, *Teen Wolf* and *Extremities*, Scott has garnered international acclaim and recognition. Mr. Rosenfelt is a member of the Directors Guild of America and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

### **Michael Rubel – General Counsel, Creative Artists Agency (CAA)**

Mr. Rubel has served as general counsel at the Creative Artists Agency since 1997. Previously, he was managing partner at Los Angeles law firm Del, Rubel, Shaw, Mason & Dern. He received his J.D. from UCLA and his A.B. degree from Brown University. Mr. Rubel is actively involved in a number of arts-related organizations, such as the California Arts Council, the UCLA Hammer Museum, the California Summer School for the Arts and the Getty Museum.

### **Rob Senn – President, The CONVERGITAL Group**

Mr. Senn is an award winning California-based marketing innovator who has specialized in the entertainment industry for his entire career. Currently a marketing strategist consulting in the music and video game businesses, Rob has held executive leadership positions at high-profile companies in a variety of entertainment areas:

- the musical instrument sector (COO & CMO of Gibson Guitars for four years),
- the live event sector (Sr. VP Creative for Anschutz Entertainment Group for two years)
- the music television sector (EVP/GM of the GRAMMY Awards for 12 years),
- the music business sector in a variety of executive positions at MTV, Universal Music, Atlantic Records, and Columbia Records.